movement of labour across national boundaries, though there is need for lot more liberalisation of restrictions in several countries against immigration of labour.

So far as India is concerned, since 1991 when economic reforms were introduced, it is estimated, that 18.78 million additional jobs hve been created, 6.58 million during 1992-93, 5.02 million during 1993-94 and 7.18 million during 1994-95.

In any case, the social dimensions of economic reforms including in the area of unemployment have been kept in view, and following the manoeuverability gained through overall fiscal correctives, allocations for social sectors and poverty alleviation programmes have been significantly stepped up during and since 1993-94.

In addition, utilising resources available under the National Renewal Fund, allocations are also being made for training and retraining to improve the employability of the workers and job seekers.

Demand to repeal essential Commodities Act

*3. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether federation of all India Food Dealers has recommended that the Essential Commodities (special provisions) Act, 1981 be repealed immediately;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The validity of Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 was extended for five years beyond 31.8.1992 after consultation with the State Govemments/UT Administrations. None of the State/UT Governments- at the time opposed the extension. This Act was enacted and its validity extended to deal more effectively with persons indulging in hoarding, blackmarketing etc. Repealing the Act has not been found to be feasible under the circumstances. However, the Central Government has advised the State/UT Governments to exercise the powers under the Act with great care and caution so that no harassment is caused to honest traders or businessmen.

Duty Exemption under EPCG

*4. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh application has been received from Sterling Cellular Limited for duty exemption under the EPCG Schemes after two earlier applications for similar duty exemptions were rejected by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government now propose to reverse the earlier decision; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Ms. Sterling Cellular Limited have filed an application under 15% concessional duty EPCG Schemes as a service provider which is under examination. Earlier they had made an application under Zero Duty EPCG Scheme which was not approved as it was felt that the party may not come under the purview of this Scheme.

मध्य प्रदेश में अमरोली कोलियरी गोली-कांड

*5 **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि एन.सी.एल. सिंगरोली के अंतर्गत अरोली कोलियरी परियोजना के प्रबंधन ने

दिनांक 27 जून, 1995 को उन निहत्थे विस्थापित नागरिकों पर गोली चलाने के आदेश दिए थे जो अपनी मांगों के समर्थन में,"चक्का जाम" प्रदर्शन कर रहे थे;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच हैं कि इस परियोजना के सुरक्षा अधिकारी ने 12-बोझ की राइफल से गोली चलाई थी जिससे अनेक लोग घायल हुए जो इस समय गंभीर हालत में हैं; और

(ग) सरकार इस मामले में क्या कार्रवाई करने का विचार रखती हैं और इस घटना के शिकार व्यक्तियों को कितना-कितना मुआवजा दिया गया अथवा दिए जाने का विचार हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) नार्दर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि. (ना.को.लि.) से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार पुलिस ने प्रदर्शनकारियों पर तब गोली चलाई जबकि वे हिंसा की कार्रवाई करने लगे थे। गोली चलाई जाने इस संबंध में चार व्यक्तियों को चोटें आई।

(ग) चूंकि यह कानून तथा व्यवस्था का मामला हैं, अतः इस संबंध में कार्रवाई किया जाना राज्य सरकार के कार्यक्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आता हैं।

Krishna Fire Works Blaze

*6. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of the inquiry by the team of the Campaign against Child Labour and Voluntary Health Association of India, into the Krishna Fire Works Blaze of May 24, 1995 in Rohtak (Haryana); and

(b) if so, what effective steps have been taken to prevent employment of children in such hazardous job indicating the latest Government's estimates about the number of children employed in the country in match and fire works?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from the prohibitory provisions under the various labour laws like the Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, Child Labour is also prohibited in scheduled occupations' processes under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The enforcement of the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is being monitored by the Central Government. All the State Governments[7] UTs are also to enforce the child related Laws.

In addition to the above, National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister to tackle the problem of child labour. The NAECL has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level—the district—to effectively handle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant Laws. This plan of action has been sent to all StateaUTs for adoption.

Following up on a call given by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech on the 15th of August, 1994, it is proposed to allocate Rs. 850 crores for elimination of child labour from hazardous employments by the year 2000 AD. In the current year, an amount of Rs. 34.4 Crores has also been provided. A major awareness campaign has already been launched. Further, it is proposed to hold a workshop of heads of 100 child labour endemic districts at New Delhi in September 1995 to work out modalities of eliminating child labour in a district-specific and employment-specific manner.

India has been participating in the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). For the period from 1992 to 1995, there has been an allocation to India, under this program-